

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1584

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 9481

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: GOC PREVENTS VISIT BY CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS

1. SUMMARY: AT LAST MINUTE, GOC BANS VISIT BY CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARIAN

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CANADIAN CHURCH COMMITTEE. BAN SO FAR
UNPUBLISHED IN CHILE. END SUMMARY.

2. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR POTVIN HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN PREPARING
FOR A FAMILIARIZATION VISIT BY A GROUP OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE CANADIAN CHURCH COMMITTEE, WHICH HE BELIEVES WOULD
CONTRIBUTE TO A MORE ACCURATE CANADIAN VIEW OF THE SITUATION
IN CHILE. VISITING GROUP WAS TO BE COMPOSED OF MR. GEORGE CRAM,
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN TORONTO,
AND THREE CANADIAN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, MR. LOUIS DUCLOS OF
THE LIBERAL PARTY (QUEBEC); MR. DAVID MCDONALD OF THE CONSERVATIVE
PART (NEW BRUNSWICK); AND MR. ANDREW BREWIN OF THE NEW DEMOCRATIC
PARTY (ONTARIO). OCTOBER 28 CHILEAN PRESS CARRIED WORD OF THE
VISIT OF THE PARLIAMENTARIANS, PRESUMABLY THROUGH RELEASE BY
FOREIGN OFFICE.

3. AT SOCIAL FUNCTION EVENING SEPTEMBER 27, POTVIN AND GOC
SUPREME COURT JUSTICE EYZAGUIRRE INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT
CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS HAD BEEN BARRED FROM CHILE. CHIEF
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JUSTICE WAS PERTURBED BECAUSE APPOINTMENT HAD BEEN ARRANGED

WITH HIM FOR SEPTEMBER 28. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR WAS EQUALLY PERTURBED
BECAUSE OF HEAVY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND LARGE DINNER WHICH
HE HAD ARRANGED FOR THE PARTY.

4. POTVIN HAD BEEN GIVEN NO REASON FOR THIS ABRUPT, LAST-
MINUTE CANCELLATION. HE WAS CERTAIN THAT IT WOULD ONLY ADD
TO CHILE'S PROBLEMS WITH CANADIAN PUBLIC OPINION.
POPPER

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